

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6998**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 212

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 29, 2003

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** E-scholars.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Ford

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill establishes the e-scholars program to provide computers and Internet access for certain students.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2004.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** The E-Scholarship program provides the financial resources necessary to award computers and Internet access to students. To qualify for the program, a student must be enrolled in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade of a public or accredited nonpublic school, be a Twenty-First Century Scholar, and be enrolled in a school that is a member of the Web Academy. The bill establishes the E-Scholars Program administered by the State Student Assistance Commission by delegating implementation and operation of the program to the Web Academy. About 10,500 students apply to be Twenty-First Century Scholars annually. If a computer costs about \$700 and Internet access is about \$12 a month, then cost would be about \$8.9 M the first year and \$10.4 M the second year.

The bill establishes the E-Scholars Fund administered by the State Student Assistance Commission. The expenses of administering the fund are paid from the fund. Money in the fund at the end of a fiscal year does not revert to the General Fund, and money in the fund is continuously appropriated.

This bill does not contain a specific appropriation.

*Background:* The Web Academy is the joint program of the Intelenet Commission and the Department of Education that provides Internet technology, training, support, and hands-on experience for students, teachers, and families.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** State Student Assistance Commission.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Mike Huffman Department of Education 317-232-6672, Nick Vesper, State Student Assistance Commission, 317-233-5094.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.